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AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
of the RHODE ISLAND STATE COLLEGE
Kingston, Rhode Island, U. S. A.

**Time Factors in the Business of Homemaking
in Rural Rhode Island**

MARGARET WHITTEMORE and BERNIECE NEIL



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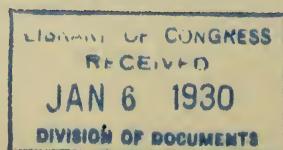
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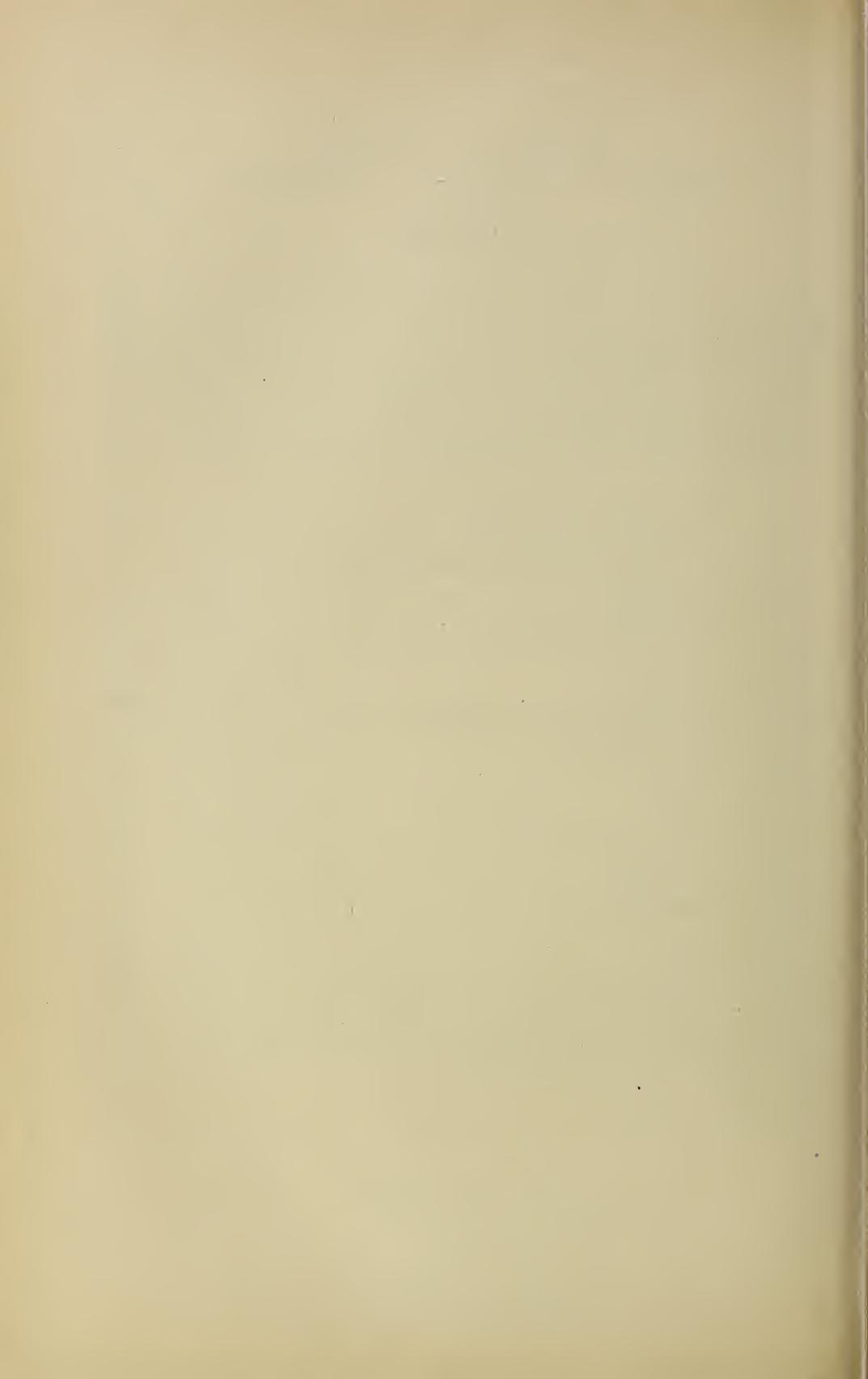
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CONTENTS

* * *

| | |
|--|----|
| INTRODUCTION | 5 |
| METHODS OF PROCEDURE | 6 |
| MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE HOMEMAKER | 9 |
| Preparation and clearing away of food | 9 |
| Sewing, mending and fancy work | 11 |
| Cleaning and care of the house and grounds | 12 |
| Laundering | 12 |
| Care of other members of the family | 12 |
| Planning and purchasing for the home | 14 |
| Homemaker's sleep and rest, and care of self | 15 |
| Reading and recreation | 15 |
| Attendance at church and meetings | 17 |
| Poultry raising, dairying, and other farm work | 17 |
| Work for pay | 18 |
| Miscellaneous activities | 18 |
| LABOR AND TIME-SAVING EQUIPMENT | 18 |
| Electric lights and irons | 18 |
| Vacuum cleaners | 19 |
| Washing machines | 19 |
| Water systems | 20 |
| Heating systems | 21 |
| Fuels used in cooking | 21 |
| OUTSIDE SERVICE | 22 |
| Laundering | 22 |
| Buying bread | 22 |
| EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE OF HOMEMAKER | 22 |
| ATTITUDE TOWARD HOMEMAKING TASKS | 23 |
| COMPARISON OF TWO RECORDS KEPT BY SOME WOMEN | 24 |
| HELP RECEIVED IN HOMEMAKING | 24 |
| SUMMARY | 25 |
| APPENDIX | 28 |



AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
of the RHODE ISLAND STATE COLLEGE
Kingston, Rhode Island, U. S. A.

Time Factors in the Business of Homemaking in Rural Rhode Island¹

By MARGARET WHITTEMORE and BERNIECE NEIL

INTRODUCTION

Each generation finds cause to wonder at and deplore the great amount of change in the manners and customs of its time, particularly as these affect the home. Although not new, the present outcry seems to be louder and more general than usual. Partly because of the rapid development of the application of science to daily life we are experiencing at present a rate and degree of change such as has not often, if ever before, been seen. Another outstanding factor is the general increase of wealth and the raising of living standards. Probably a further cause is the much widened field of activities outside the home which is now open to homemakers. If facts were available it would be interesting to compare with that of today the time spent on various phases of homemaking before the day of the vacuum cleaner, ready-made clothing, and other time-savers. Up to the present, however, guesses or estimates made on a few isolated cases have been used for discussions. These never were satisfactory and now are entirely inadequate for an intelligent understanding of the situation.

In the fields of both sociology and economics a growing realization of the importance of the individual home is being shown. Increasingly successful efforts are being made to place the work of homemaking on a financial basis for valuation. This is desirable for students of situations affected by this large group of workers. It is also needed for the understanding of the conditions produced by married women who continue to be wage-earners. For these and other reasons it seems timely to attempt to learn the facts about the expenditure of time in homemaking.

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¹Contribution No. 383 of the station.

Many experienced homemakers have only a very general idea of the time taken by certain activities and are surprised to see the actual amount. The economic value of the family living is very difficult to estimate. It is even harder to justly evaluate the work of the woman who attends to the needs of the family. Sometime ago the home ceased to have a place in the production of raw materials and is now largely either a consumer of finished products or of prepared materials which it makes into finished products. For instance, it no longer concerns itself with producing the ingredients for bread, but buys the flour, fat, milk, and yeast ready for use. Many are questioning the economic value of spending time and fuel to make even the bread at home when these might be used more productively in other ways and the bread made more economically by large bakeries. Sociologists and economists are now beginning to consider the labor expenditure of the homemaker nearly as important as her money expenditure.

It is true that in no two homes are the conditions quite the same. The figures which are presented in the tables of this bulletin are not those showing the time actually used by any one woman in household tasks. Since they are averages of a fairly large group, the effects of the varying conditions in different homes are largely wiped out.

The resulting average can be used as a measure by any one wishing to compare the time which she takes for the same piece of work. Suitable allowance must be made for her own conditions.

METHODS OF PROCEDURE

The data from which these facts were taken are from accounts kept by women living on farms or in small communities in Rhode Island. The distribution of these homes is shown in Figure 1. This survey extended from February, 1926, until March, 1929. Each contributor kept a daily record for 1 week in which she entered every activity which took 5 minutes or more. To avoid confusion and an almost impossible amount of detail, the time was considered that of the nearest 5-minute period to the time actually taken. Under homemaking is entered the time given to planning, purchasing for the family, care of other members, general cleaning, care of the house and grounds, the preparing and clearing away of food, and the making, mending, or laundering of clothing and other household textiles. The records also report the time spent by the homemaker in sleep, dressing, eating meals, reading and other leisure or social activities, and in farm work. The time occupied in going to or from any of these activities is kept on the records as well.

In addition to the time record each woman gave information about her home conditions. This included facts about the number and ages of

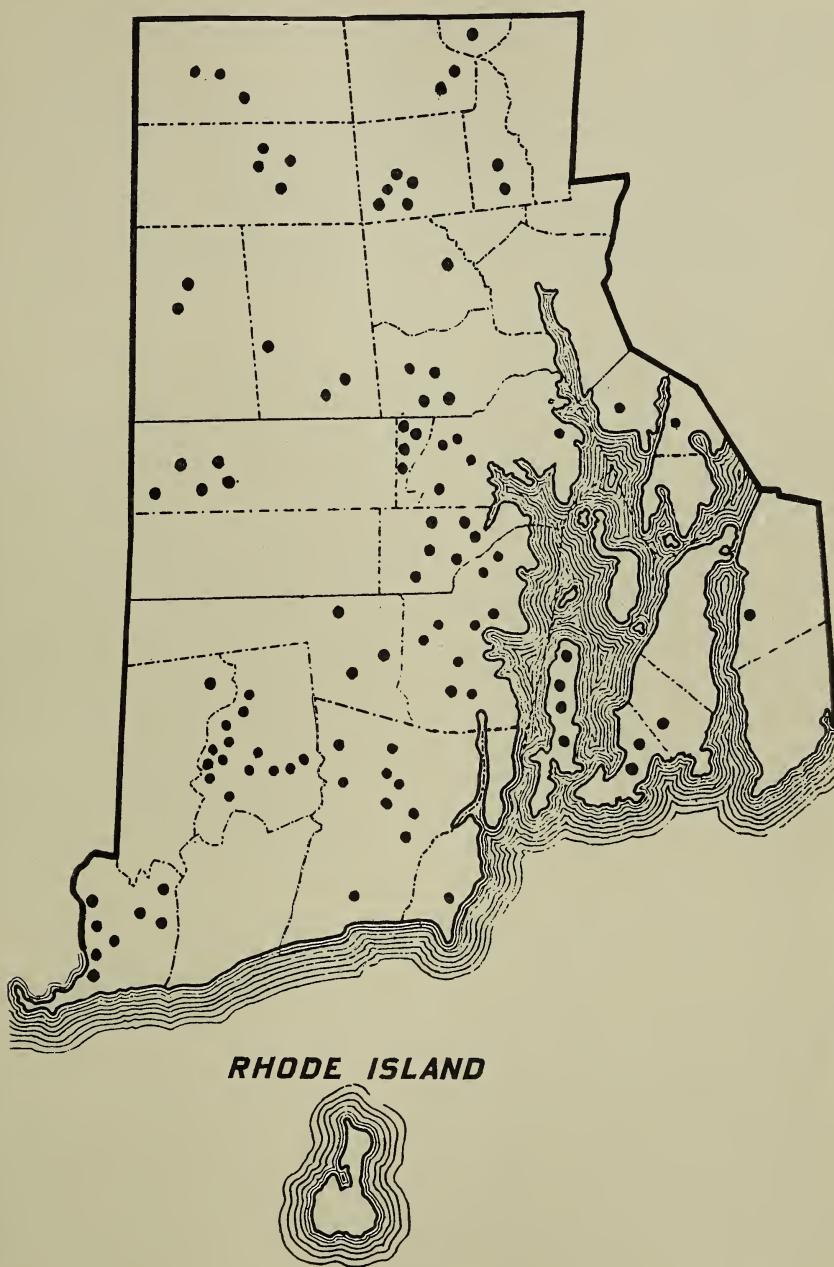


Fig. 1.—The distribution of 102 women contributing to the study of the use of time in homemaking in rural Rhode Island

the members of the family and the size of the house. Equipment such as washing machines, vacuum cleaners, and other labor-saving devices was reported as well.

All these reports were kept on sheets prepared and given to each woman for the purpose. Record forms prepared by the Bureau of Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture were used so that the facts secured in Rhode Island would be comparable with those from similar investigations being carried on in other parts of the country. On the reverse side of each blank a form was provided for records concerning help in homemaking work. This included paid help or that given by some member of the family.

At first this material, with explanatory sheets, was mailed to a long list of women in different sections of the state. The returns from this method were very small so an effort was made to meet the women in rural groups such as the Grange and the Parent-Teachers Association. The response after this contact was slightly better but still far from satisfactory. Finally the slower but surer method of making a personal visit was adopted. Through this means it was possible to explain the purpose and plan of the survey and to secure the real interest of the woman. In a number of cases where it was hard to interpret a record, a knowledge of the surroundings gained by a visit to a woman's home was a great help. The almost universal cordiality and interest shown whether the record was kept or not made these calls a pleasure.

In order to get a more comprehensive view of her work each one who kept a record was asked to keep a second one at a different season. This should include the different activities which might enter in at another part of the year.

It was planned to take random samples, getting them from all possible variations of education, and financial and social status in rural sections of the state. As will be shown later, however, it was found almost inevitably that the result was a selection along the lines of superior intelligence or training. Differences in number in the family, size of house, equipment and other working conditions were also desirable so as to make the average attained show a fair view of the situation. It seems probable that there is the desired variation in the other conditions since we find 30 women, or 29 per cent of the total, who had two or more children. This is the group least likely to be well represented because they most often feel that their time is too occupied to allow the additional work. The size of the family with the number of women reporting in each group is shown in Figure 2.

It will not be possible or desirable to present in this bulletin all of the material gained in the investigation, much less to fully interpret it. The

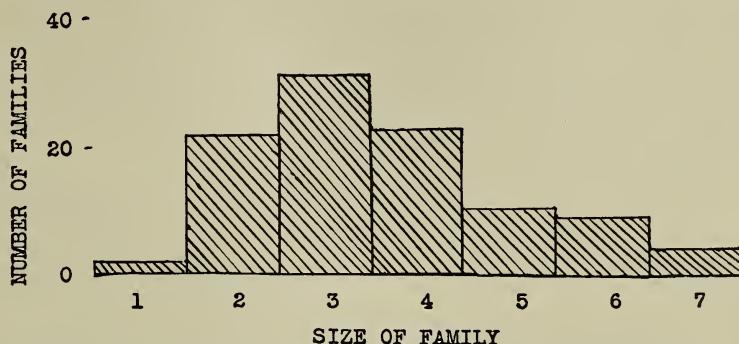


Fig. 2.—The distribution of 102 rural Rhode Island homemakers according to the number in the family

difficulty of being sure that all the important factors in a situation are considered and justly accounted must make any conclusions subject to change. However, certain facts seem to be fairly well established.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE HOMEMAKER

Preparation and clearing away of food

As is to be expected, the most time-consuming of the different kinds of household work is that concerned with the food for the family. The average amount of time given to food, both in preparation and clearing away of meals, and in dishwashing is 24 hours and 20 minutes a week or 3 hours and 30 minutes daily. Since this includes time given to canning and baking, it does not seem unduly large. The largest weekly amount of time recorded in work with food is 43 hours and 45 minutes. These facts will be found in Table 1 and deduced from Table B² in the Appendix.

TABLE 1.—*The average, lowest, and highest amounts of time spent during the week by rural Rhode Island homemakers in various activities*

| Activity | TIME SPENT BY HOMEMAKER | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Average Per week | Lowest Per day | Highest Per week | Highest Per week |
| Food | 24 Hrs. 20 Min. | 3 Hrs. 30 Min. | 9 Hrs. 05 Min. | 43 Hrs. 45 Min. |
| Cleaning | 7 Hrs. 35 Min. | 1 Hrs. 05 Min. | 1 Hrs. 45 Min. | 16 Hrs. 15 Min. |
| Other care of house and grounds | 2 Hrs. 05 Min. | ..... | 0 Hrs. 10 Min. | 11 Hrs. 30 Min. |
| Laundering | 4 Hrs. 50 Min. | ..... | 0 Hrs. 20 Min. | 11 Hrs. 50 Min. |
| Sewing | 7 Hrs. 40 Min. | ..... | 0 Hrs. 05 Min. | 29 Hrs. 25 Min. |
| Care of family | 4 Hrs. 15 Min. | ..... | 0 Hrs. 05 Min. | 29 Hrs. 10 Min. |
| Planning and purchasing | 3 Hrs. 20 Min. | ..... | 0 Hrs. 10 Min. | 11 Hrs. 30 Min. |
| Paid work | 4 Hrs. 30 Min. | ..... | 0 Hrs. 10 Min. | 25 Hrs. 50 Min. |
| Sleep and rest | 61 Hrs. 25 Min. | 8 Hrs. 45 Min. | 24 Hrs. 45 Min. | 76 Hrs. 30 Min. |
| Care of self | 15 Hrs. 35 Min. | 2 Hrs. 15 Min. | 8 Hrs. 15 Min. | 25 Hrs. 15 Min. |
| Recreation and meetings | 30 Hrs. 15 Min. | 4 Hrs. 20 Min. | 6 Hrs. 50 Min. | 53 Hrs. 50 Min. |

²Tables designated by letter will be found in the Appendix.

One often hears the statement that it takes no longer to cook for three than for two, or for six or seven than for four. Referring to Figure 3 it will be found that there is a definite and fairly even per capita increase

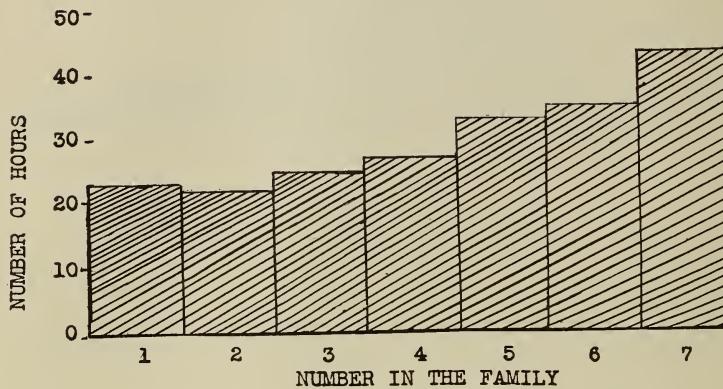


Fig. 3.—Comparison between the number of members in 102 rural Rhode Island families and the average time spent per week on food by all workers

with each additional member in the family. Since this figure includes clearing after the meals, as well as preparation of food, we would expect to find a slightly greater amount of time required because of the additional dishes to be washed. However, this would not account for more than the 2 hours and 30 minutes which is shown as the average increase due to each additional person. A comparison of the time spent in preparing meals with that spent in clearing away, shows that the latter takes nearly three-quarters as long as the former. (Tables A and C).

Counting the time given by helpers as well as homemakers, cleaning after the meals took an average of 1 hour and 25 minutes per day and preparation and serving required 2 hours and 5 minutes as shown in Table E.

Reference to Table 2 shows some interesting trends. It appears that the amount of time spent on food does not increase proportionately as time spent in total homemaking increases. In fact, although there is an actual increase of about 9 hours and 30 minutes, its percentage of total homemaking time drops gradually from 57 to 36 per cent. The same condition is shown in the cleaning of the house. This suggests that in the case of these two activities the homemaker has less possibility of choice concerning the minimum time which she has to spend on each. (Table B). The division of homemaking in which the percentage increases most noticeably is the care of members of the family, usually children. While the percentage

TABLE 2.—*The percentage of time spent during the week by rural Rhode Island homemakers on divisions of homemaking compared with total homemaking*

| Activity | Under 35 hours | 35 to 42 hours | 42 to 49 hours | 49 to 56 hours | 56 to 63 hours | 63 to 70 hours | 70 hours and over |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Per cent | Per cent | Per cent | Per cent | Per cent | Per cent | Per cent |
| Food | | | | | | | |
| Preparing meals | 35 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 23 | 24 | 20 |
| Clearing away meals | 17 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 13 | 15 | 10 |
| Other | 5 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Total time | 57 | 51 | 47 | 46 | 43 | 46 | 36 |
| House | | | | | | | |
| Cleaning | 17 | 16 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 10 |
| Care of fires | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Other | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Total time | 19 | 21 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 13 |
| Clothing and textiles | | | | | | | |
| Washing | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| Ironing | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Other laundering | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 |
| Sewing, mending and fancy work | 11 | 10 | 15 | 13 | 18 | 13 | 12 |
| Total time | 22 | 18 | 24 | 22 | 28 | 21 | 22 |
| Care of members of family | | | | | | | |
| Total time | ... | 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 24 |
| Homemaking management | | | | | | | |
| Purchasing | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Other | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total time | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Going and returning | | | | | | | |
| Total time | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

of time spent in washing shows a final increase after an intermediate decrease, that given to ironing decreases. Since in most cases the increase in time given to homemaking parallels an increase in number of members of the family, it would be interesting to know in how far the preceding fact is due to a willingness to leave a larger number of articles unironed.

Sewing, mending, and fancy work

The amount of time which the women spent in sewing and fancy work varies very widely. For some this might be placed in their leisure time since they evidently prefer to occupy themselves in this way than in reading or other forms of recreation. For others, however, the demands of the piled-up mending basket or the family's need of new garments could not be rated in that class. The time spent by several in sewing for pay is grouped with other paid work. In spite of the large amount of clothing now bought ready-made, sewing and mending are still important factors in the homemaker's working time. This is shown by the fact that they come second in amount of time, only that given to food exceeding them.

Reference to Table 3 makes it appear that other factors than the number in the family are more important in determining how much time shall be used in this way. Forty-two women report time given to fancy work during the week in which the record was kept. This was found especially in connection with those records which were kept shortly before Christmas. For many women sewing is also a seasonal occupation. When summer brings additional work on the farm the homemaker plans to finish most of the sewing for the family during the indoor months of winter and early spring.

Cleaning and care of the house and grounds

Next to sewing in amount of time required by the average homemaker are the cleaning activities. These show an average of 7 hours and 35 minutes a week or 1 hour and 5 minutes daily (Table 1). They do not include the cleaning directly connected with food nor is laundering counted in these figures. Since in most cases the week recorded was one free from unusual activities the semi-annual periods of cleaning known as spring and fall house-cleaning are also not represented.

Other care of the house and grounds received an average of 2 hours and 5 minutes a week. In this class is included the time spent in care of fires. It is interesting to notice in Table F that 41 say that they have help in caring for fires with an average of 3 hours and 45 minutes each. The fact that part of the records were made at a time of year when heaters were not needed has naturally reduced this figure. This is one of the three phases of homemaking in which the women record the most help.

Laundering

In spite of the fact that 40 women report sending part or all of their washing out, 92 per cent of the women have recorded some time spent in washing. In some cases the time is so small that it is evident that this represents only the washing of an occasional article which needs especial care rather than a part of the regular family laundry.

In the average time recorded in laundry work in Table 1 there is also counted that given to getting the laundry ready to send out and putting it away on its return. At a later point in this bulletin there will be found a discussion of some of the facts which appear in relation to the effect of certain kinds of equipment and time spent in laundry work.

Care of other members of the family

Although only 23 per cent of the women had two or more young children, 58 per cent of the total number report some time given to the care of members of the family. It is interesting to notice that the figures in Table

TABLE 3.—*The comparison between the number in the family and the average daily time spent on certain activities by 102 rural Rhode Island homemakers*

| Activity | NUMBER IN THE FAMILY | | | | | | No. | Time | No. | Time | No. | Time | No. | Time | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|----|---|----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleaning | 2 | 0 | 45 | 21 | 1 | 00 | 30 | 1 | 05 | 22 | 1 | 05 | 12 | 1 | 20 |
| Sewing and mending | 2 | 0 | 45 | 19 | 0 | 50 | 30 | 0 | 40 | 21 | 1 | 05 | 12 | 0 | 45 |
| Fancy work | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 0 | 45 | 14 | 0 | 30 | 4 | 0 | 55 | 7 | 0 | 35 |
| Sleep and rest | 2 | 8 | 30 | 21 | 9 | 10 | 30 | 8 | 45 | 22 | 9 | 00 | 12 | 8 | 10 |
| Care of self | 2 | 2 | 55 | 21 | 2 | 15 | 30 | 2 | 15 | 22 | 2 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 05 |

TABLE 4.—*The average, lowest, and highest amounts of time spent during the week by 59 rural Rhode Island homemakers in care of members of the family and the average, lowest, and highest amounts of help received in such care grouped according to the number which must receive care*

| Number of persons receiving care | Home-makers spending some time | TIME SPENT BY HOMEMAKER AND HELPER | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | | Homemaker | | Helper | | Average | | Average | | Highest | |
| | | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day |
| 1 | 32 | 31 | 6 | 5 | 30 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 05 | 24 | 10 |
| 2 | 17 | 17 | 2 | 8 | 35 | 1 | 15 | 0 | 20 | 23 | 50 |
| 3 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 20 | 1 | 35 | 0 | 25 | 29 | 10 |

4 show a steady average increase of about 3 hours of the homemaker's time for each additional member needing care. On the other hand the same table shows a decrease in the time given to that work by helpers. In addition to their own work 13 homemakers report a weekly average of 5 hours and 20 minutes help (Table F). Frequently this is given by an older child or some other member of the family. Each child had its own duties and responsibilities for younger members. Help with the children's lessons and in some cases actually teaching them is reported by 10 per cent of the women. As only 33 per cent of the total have children of school age it is evident that the home still quite extensively supplements the school in the type of learning which is associated with schools. In the group studied it is interesting to find that those who have many demands on their time because of little children do not decrease their sleep and rest but apparently take this time from recreation. This is shown in Table 3 and Figure 4.

Planning and purchasing for the home

Although the automobile now makes it possible for the average woman of this group to go to town, she still leaves to others much of the purchasing of food and supplies for the family. Other forms of management of the household such as planning the work for the home or directing that of others seem to play very little part in the life of most rural Rhode Island women. There is doubtless much more planning of the day's work than is shown on the records because it is done while the worker is busy at something else. She does not take time to write her plans down. Even including the time spent in keeping the daily records, the total time reported by all the homemakers for this phase of homemaking is 336 hours and 50 minutes. This gives a weekly average of only 3 hours and 35 minutes for the 95 women reporting such work (Table D). In Figure 5 we see that the largest number reporting any time in household management spent 1 hour a week or less with a more or less steadily decreasing number of women for each additional hour.

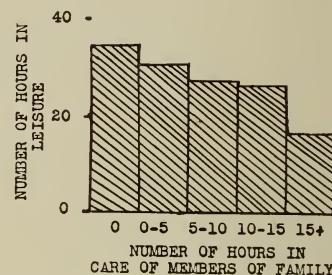


Fig. 4.—Average time spent during the week in leisure by 102 rural Rhode Island homemakers compared with that spent during the week on care of members of the family

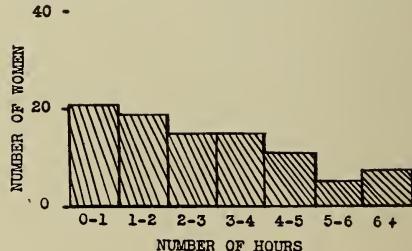


Fig. 5.—Time spent during the week on planning and purchasing by 102 rural Rhode Island women

Homemaker's sleep and rest and care of self

In spite of the attractions of evening community meetings or radio programs at home, the average homemaker seems to be getting a generous amount of sleep and rest. Table 1 shows that, including the rest taken in the daytime, the women spend an average of 8 hours and 45 minutes of the 24 hours in rest. It is of interest to find that 77 per cent record rest in the daytime although it is sometimes only a few minutes and quite irregularly taken.

The time spent by the women in bathing, dressing and eating meals shows a daily average of 2 hours and 15 minutes. If meal-time is the chief time for the family gathering and sociability, there is little left from this amount for the homemaker's care of herself. In many cases, however, we find a record of playing games, reading or talking with the family showing that at least a part of the family sociability has been recorded elsewhere. It is evident never-the-less that the average woman does not spend much time in care of herself. A comparison of the time spent in personal activities grouped according to amount of help received is found in Table G. This shows a very slight increase in the time given to all personal activities as the amount of help increases but would seem to indicate that on the whole it makes little difference.

Reading and recreation

Recreation occupies a good share of the homemaker's time if meetings of all kinds and work for organizations are included with reading and social diversions under this head. While one woman says that she spent only 6 hours and 50 minutes a week or 1 hour a day in any activities of such a nature, the average is 4 hours and 20 minutes daily. In Figure 6 we notice that as the time used by the homemaker in her housework increases, that used in different phases of leisure steadily decreases. Although there is not sufficient control of the conditions to provide assurance that other factors may not have contributed to this, it is interesting to notice this trend.

Reading is naturally one of the most universal of these activities.

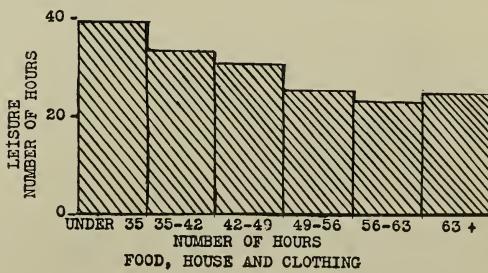


Fig. 6.—Average time spent during the week in leisure by 102 rural Rhode Island homemakers compared with the time spent during the week on food, house and clothing

Reference to Table 5 shows the distribution of time among the various types of reading. It is probable that some of the time reported in "other and not specified" should appear in the news or fiction column since some women failed to state the kind of reading material. Apparently the radio has not greatly reduced the time given to reading the daily papers since news far exceeds the other kinds of reading.

TABLE 5.—*Average, lowest, and highest amounts of time spent during the week and the percentage of rural Rhode Island homemakers reporting various types of reading*

| Type of reading | Home-makers | TIME SPENT DURING WEEK | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | Average | | Lowest | Highest |
| | | 102 Home-makers | Those reporting | Those reporting | Those reporting |
| | Per cent | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. |
| Newspaper | 92 | 3 05 | 3 20 | 0 10 | 10 40 |
| Fiction | 47 | 1 25 | 3 00 | 0 05 | 13 45 |
| Other and not specified.... | 85 | 3 05 | 3 35 | 0 20 | 14 30 |

The time spent in listening to the radio is recorded only when that time is given entirely to it. When a woman reported sewing or carrying on another form of work when she was listening to the radio that time has been credited only to the work. If these cases were also added there would be many more than 38 per cent of the women as shown in Table 6.

TABLE 6.—*Percentage of rural Rhode Island homemakers spending time during the week in each leisure activity and the average, lowest, and highest amounts of time spent in each*

| Activity | Home-makers | TIME SPENT DURING WEEK BY HOMEMAKER | | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Average | Lowest | Highest |
| | Per cent | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. |
| Reading | 99 | 7 40 | 0 20 | 20 55 |
| Religious meetings | 45 | 2 40 | 0 30 | 9 55 |
| Other meetings | 39 | 4 30 | 0 15 | 32 00 |
| Work for organizations | 34 | 3 10 | 0 10 | 9 50 |
| Care of persons not members of family | 25 | 1 40 | 0 10 | 7 10 |
| Radio | 38 | 4 10 | 0 10 | 16 40 |
| Informal social life | 100 | 8 40 | 0 30 | 27 25 |
| Formal social life | 25 | 4 30 | 0 55 | 13 25 |
| Entertainments | 23 | 3 35 | 0 30 | 16 15 |
| Outings and sports | 62 | 2 55 | 0 10 | 19 05 |
| Correspondence and telephone.... | 78 | 1 55 | 0 05 | 7 25 |
| Other and not specified | 36 | 1 25 | 0 05 | 7 15 |
| Going and returning | 80 | 2 45 | 0 05 | 13 45 |
| All leisure | 100 | 30 15 | 6 50 | 53 50 |

Attendance at church and meetings

Under the heading of informal social life in Table 6 there is included the time given to music and conversation with the family as well as neighborly visiting. Because of its generally inclusive nature this is the largest of the recreational activities, with reading a close second. Church attendance is far from universal. Only 45 per cent report going to religious meetings of any kind, although others spoke of listening to a church service over the radio. Small children, poor roads, distance from church or Sunday school, and lack of means of transportation are often found responsible. These factors, however, fail to explain the much smaller church attendance than is reported by Rankin³ in Nebraska.

Poultry raising, dairying, and other farm work

Under the heading of farm work there are included not only care of poultry, vegetable gardening, and feeding of the stock but also the washing of milk utensils, packing eggs, and picking strawberries or other fruits for market. Sixty-three women have reported an average of 5 hours and 20 minutes in some kind of farm work. In Table 7 we see that work with poultry, as would be expected, occupied a large part of this time. The farm women of Nebraska evidently are more active in this type of work. It is reported that more than 90 per cent of them took care of the farm flock while in Rhode Island only 75 per cent reported any such work. Except with poultry it appears that the Rhode Island women do very little farm work.

TABLE 7.—*Percentage of rural Rhode Island homemakers reporting time during the week on various kinds of farm work with the average, lowest, and highest amounts of time so spent*

| Activity | Home-makers | TIME SPENT DURING WEEK BY HOMEMAKER | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Average | Lowest | Highest |
| | Per cent ^a | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. |
| Fruit and vegetable gardening | 16 | 2 30 | 0 45 | 8 00 |
| Poultry | 75 | 3 30 | 0 10 | 21 15 |
| Dairy | 52 | 1 55 | 0 05 | 8 15 |
| Livestock | 16 | 2 45 | 0 05 | 6 15 |
| Farm management | 13 | 1 00 | 0 05 | 2 50 |
| Other and not specified | 17 | 3 50 | 0 15 | 14 05 |
| Going and returning | 8 | 0 55 | 0 10 | 1 45 |
| All farm work | .... | 5 20 | 0 15 | 24 50 |

^aPercentage of 63 women reporting some kind of farm work. Some women report more than one kind.

³Rankin, J. O. The use of time in farm homes. Nebr. Agr. Expt. Sta. Bul. 230.

Work for pay

Twenty-two women, or 20 per cent, told of doing some work for pay or helped some member of the family for whom the work was income-producing. In a number of cases this work consisted in keeping the accounts or making out the bills for the man of the family. Two did sewing for pay; two were librarians; one was a town school superintendent; two were teachers, and one kept a wayside stand.

Miscellaneous activities

A number of miscellaneous activities such as work on the automobile, care of pets, and going to get or to mail letters are grouped together. Any time unaccounted for during the week of the record also appears with this group. These figures are found in Table 8.

TABLE 8.—*Percentage of rural Rhode Island homemakers spending time during the week in miscellaneous activities and the average, lowest, and highest amounts of time spent in each*

| Activity | Home-makers | TIME SPENT DURING WEEK BY HOMEMAKER | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Average | Lowest | Highest |
| | Per cent ^a | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. |
| Automobile | 11 | 0 45 | 0 05 | 3 45 |
| Other | 67 | 1 35 | 0 10 | 8 50 |
| Not specified | 49 | 2 05 | 0 05 | 19 30 |
| Unaccounted for time | 20 | 2 15 | 0 15 | 8 30 |
| Going and returning | 5 | 0 45 | 0 15 | 1 30 |
| All miscellaneous activities | ..... | 2 35 | 0 05 | 19 30 |

^aPercentage of 82 women reporting some kind of miscellaneous activity. Some women report more than one kind.

LABOR AND TIME-SAVING EQUIPMENT

Electric lights and irons

With the present emphasis on labor-saving equipment it is interesting to see what these women have to help them. Approximately three-quarters of the number have electric lights (Fig. 7). Two have gas and three have

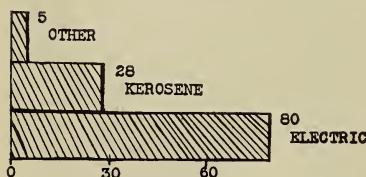


Fig. 7.—Various types of lighting systems reported by 108 rural Rhode Island women

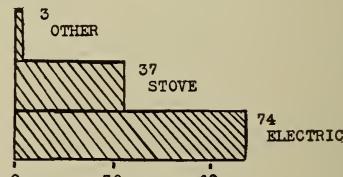


Fig. 8.—Various types of irons reported by 108 rural Rhode Island women

at least one gasoline lamp to relieve them of the care of a kerosene lamp. The electric iron is used by 69 per cent (Fig. 8). This represents a con-

siderable saving of strength as well as time, since it is not necessary to make the frequent trips between the stove and the ironing board to change the cooled iron for a hot one.

Vacuum cleaner

The electric vacuum cleaner is another piece of equipment quite frequently owned as will be seen by reference to Figure 9. In a brief survey⁴ of the use of electrical equipment in Rhode Island homes it was found, however, that only 14 per cent used the extra attachments of the vacuum cleaner. Even although not used to its full ability it makes possible a decided reduction of the time and labor required in cleaning and allows a higher standard of cleanliness.

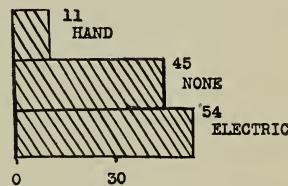


Fig. 9.—Various types of cleaners reported by 108 rural Rhode Island women

Washing machines

The homemaker, however, should be careful to see that her machine does not cause her to work harder. This has often been the case since the sewing machine was invented. When the seams were so much more easily stitched, garments were made more elaborate and it was considered necessary to have many more of them. A study of the figures on the use of the washing machine suggests much the same danger.

In Table 9 it is found that women who did all their washing at home with the help of a washing machine spent the same average weekly time

TABLE 9.—*Average, lowest, and highest amounts of time spent during the week in washing clothes by 94 rural Rhode Island homemakers grouped according to equipment*

| Equipment | Home-makers | TIME SPENT DURING WEEK BY HOMEMAKER | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| | | Average | Lowest | Highest |
| Machines: | | | | |
| All washing done at home | | | | |
| Power machine | 27 | 3 05 | 0 15 | 6 10 |
| Hand machine | 14 | 3 05 | 0 20 | 5 50 |
| No machine | 21 | 3 05 | 0 40 | 8 25 |
| Part of washing done at home | | | | |
| Power machine | 3 | 3 45 | 2 25 | 5 30 |
| Hand machine | 10 | 2 00 | 0 05 | 4 05 |
| No machine | 26 | 2 10 | 0 20 | 8 30 |
| Water System: | | | | |
| Carrying water | 14 | 2 50 | 0 20 | 8 25 |
| Pump with sink and drain | 18 | 2 50 | 0 05 | 8 30 |
| Running cold water | 20 | 2 35 | 0 25 | 6 10 |
| Running cold and hot water | 48 | 2 45 | 0 15 | 5 30 |

⁴Unpublished results of a survey made by Wilkie L. Hines, formerly Home Economist of the station.

as those who did it all by hand. Since the process has been proven to be more quickly and easily accomplished with the machine there must be some other factor at work to give this result. It may be due in part at least, as one student of the subject suggests, to the fact that women tend to adopt a "work pattern." This is a more or less subconscious allotment of time to some phase of work based on past experience. Even when conditions change the homemaker expects to spend about the same amount of time on a certain task as in the past. She works more slowly when she finds herself ahead of her previous schedule. Probably also the greater ease with which the work is done inclines the homemaker to add to the wash articles which under previous conditions would have been used a little longer before washing.

The reports show that 32 women who kept records use power washing machines and 21 more have hand washing machines, making a total of nearly half owning some kind of a machine (Figure 10). When one considers the fact that 44 per cent send part or all of their washing out of the house this seems a good proportion.

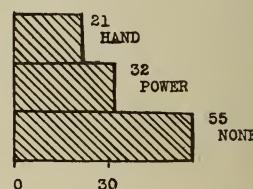


Fig. 10.—Various types of washing machines reported by 108 rural Rhode Island women

Water systems

Probably no other one thing reduces household labor so much as water system in the home. Of the 107 women reporting such equipment, 53 have running hot and cold water, 23 have piped cold water and 14 more have pump, sink, and drain in the kitchen (Figure 11). This leaves 17, or nearly 1/6, who must have all water carried in from outside. Sometimes this is from a pump on the porch but "the old oaken bucket" and even the long well-sweep is still far from obsolete. Even when the distance is small it is a hardship to have to go out into the cold or bad weather. The number of times when the trip must be repeated for such an essential as water soon makes the distance amount to a large number of steps. Frequently when the water must be carried there is no provision for its removal except by the same method so that it must be carried twice. Doubtless some of the women without a water supply in the house receive help from other members of the family in carrying it but too many are still left with this unnecessary burden.

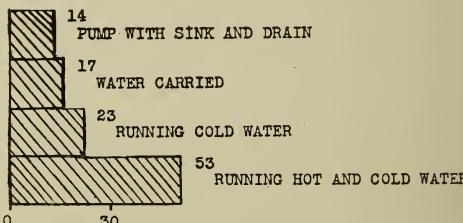


Fig. 11.—Various types of water systems reported by 108 rural Rhode Island women

Heating systems

The heating of the house is usually in the care of some man, either a member of the family or paid help. The use of wood in stoves, heaters, or fireplaces, however, makes it necessary for the homemaker to feed the fire more or less frequently. The central heating plant is less likely to require her attention or to require it less frequently.

Although it is impossible to state the actual quantity of additional cleaning necessary because of the extra dirt brought in the house by the maintaining of fires in several rooms, it must be quite an appreciable amount. In the very small house one or two stoves might give sufficient heat but even in that case carrying the fuel and ashes through the rooms must increase the amount of cleaning. For these reasons it is interesting to notice in Figure 12 that 63, or 58 per cent, of the number reporting have some type of furnace for central heat, leaving 45 women, or 42 per cent, with only stoves and fireplaces.

Fuels used in cooking

In Figure 13 it is shown that the fuel most universally used for cooking in Rhode Island is wood. The kerosene stove, however, is used frequently to supplement the range and by some as a substitute for it. Coal is a luxury rather than a necessity for cooking since in Rhode Island wood is plentiful. Several women mentioned an electric grill or some other piece of electric cooking equipment but only one reported the use of an electric range. Seven use some kind of gas.

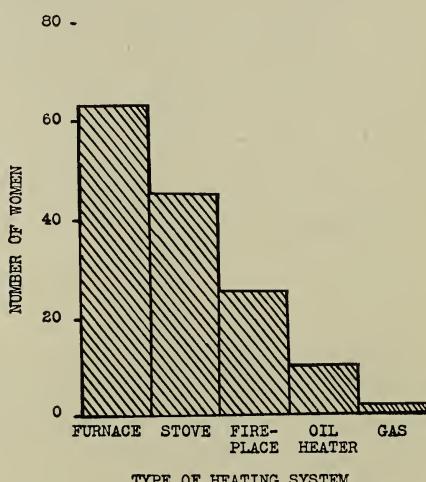


Fig. 12.—Various types of heating systems reported by 108 rural Rhode Island women

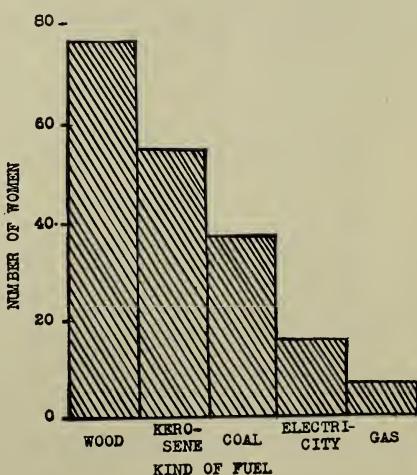


Fig. 13.—Various kinds of fuel used in cooking by 108 rural Rhode Island women

OUTSIDE SERVICE

Laundering

The homemakers may further save time by having more of the work done out of the home. In a state the size of Rhode Island some types of service are generally available which cannot be obtained where distances from commercial centers are greater. The steam laundry is within the reach of most of the rural women. Figure 14 shows that 48 of the 108 who reported on equipment sent out at least part of their washing to a laundress or a commercial laundry.

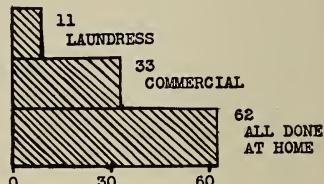


Fig. 14.—Various types of laundry service reported by rural Rhode Island women

Buying Bread

In the case of bread also we find a considerable number of the homemakers taking advantage of the chance to save their time by buying the finished product. The records show that 94 out of 108 women buy part or all of the bread for their families (Figure 15). Here again the nearness to the source of supply may give a larger figure for Rhode Island than would be found in a state in which distances from bakeries are greater.

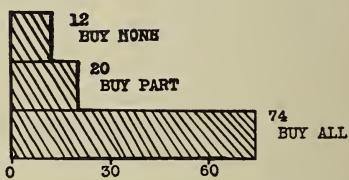


Fig. 15.—Number from 108 rural Rhode Island women reporting buying of bread

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE OF HOMEMAKER

It has been stated earlier in this bulletin that in the matter of education the group represented is above the average. This is substantiated by the fact that only 11 of the 96 reporting on their education failed to complete eight grades. Forty-six of the remaining women graduated from high school and 31 went to college, of whom 9 were graduated. Since we are including a number of elderly women who grew up in the days when even a high school education was often considered superfluous for women, 32 per cent is a large proportion to have had a partial or complete college course. Very nearly half of the women are graduates of high school.

Although it was hoped to secure a wide and varied representation in the matter of education as well as other conditions this could not have been

done without arbitrarily limiting this group. This amount of education however cannot be expected to be typical.

The number of years experience in homemaking is also an interesting item. Only 5 had had less than 5 years. The two largest groups are those who had had between 5 and 10 years and those between 30 and 35 years in both of which there were 19 cases. The next largest groups were those who had kept house from 10 to 15 and those from 15 to 20 years where we find 14 cases each. Ten women had kept house 35 years or more.

An attempt to find a correlation between the amount of time spent on housekeeping activities and the length of homemaking experience failed to show any positive results. It is easy to find several conditions which might account for this. We should expect a more rapid rate of work because of the homemaker's experience but the general slowing down due to age might be sufficient to counteract this. Then again her children are grown and her family smaller than during her earlier married life so that homemaking no longer fully occupies the time of the older woman. She often works more slowly so as to fill some of the extra hours. It is probable also that the older woman does not expect to go out as often as the younger one partly because she grew up during a period when women spent more time at home and partly because her age has reduced her outside activities. One other underlying cause for the failure to find any evident results of experience in producing shorter time given to the tasks may be the less frequent reliance on foods prepared outside the home and greater conservation about short methods in housekeeping. These facts and many others are doubtless also involved with the size of the house, physical strength and other factors not considered here.

In reply to a question whether they felt the need for more time for homemaking, 32 per cent answered in the affirmative. Slightly more than half of these wished the extra time for sewing, about one-fifth for cleaning and the others for general housework and care of children.

ATTITUDE TOWARD HOMEMAKING TASKS

The attitude of the homemaker toward the special phases of her job is of interest. Of the 85 replying, 23 said that they had no choice, 26 enjoyed cooking most, and 9 were happiest in the care of children. Other activities mentioned were decoration of the house, flower growing, ironing, cleaning, preservation of food, washing and planning. Seventy-six indicated the part which they most disliked. Twelve of these said that they had no choice or disliked all homemaking tasks. Cleaning was objected to by 24, dish-washing by 9, and cooking, washing, and mending or sewing

by 8, 7, and 6 respectively. The few remaining preferences are found in Table 10.

TABLE 10.—*Preferences of 108 rural Rhode Island women in homemaking activities*

| Activity | Greatest preference | Least preference |
|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Cooking | 26 | 8 |
| Care of children | 9 | ... |
| Washing dishes | ... | 9 |
| Cleaning | 6 | 24 |
| Sewing | 6 | ... |
| Sweeping | ... | 2 |
| Planning meals | 1 | 2 |
| Ironing | 2 | 5 |
| Washing clothes | 1 | 7 |
| House decoration | 5 | ... |
| Care of flowers | 2 | ... |
| Preservation of food | 1 | ... |
| Mending | ... | 6 |

COMPARISON OF TWO RECORDS KEPT BY SOME WOMEN

In comparing the records of the women who kept a second account of a week's work at a different time of year, a few facts came out quite clearly. Perhaps the most noticeable one is that there was little variation due to season. In a number of cases is found exactly the same amount of time given to the same activity. Even in such a seasonal occupation as the care of fires there is no noticeable increase of time in the winter. This is at least partly due to the fact that the homemaker frequently is relieved of this work by some man in the family.

The average per capita time given to sewing shows a large increase in the winter and spring months, while laundering increased decidedly in the summer. Except for these occupations, however, there is little difference in the 26 double records secured. They were distributed among the seasons as follows: 16 in the winter, 17 in the spring, 11 in the summer, and 8 in the autumn.

HELP RECEIVED IN HOMEMAKING

The help in homemaking shows a very wide variation both in kind and amount. The greater part of it is given in connection with daily food for the family. Cleaning the house and care of the fires receives the same time and are the next largest figures as shown in Table F.

There is reason to feel that some of the family help has not been

recorded. However, we find a weekly average of 15 hours and a half for the women reporting help. Fifty-seven, or 56 per cent, of the women keeping records had help varying from a few minutes to 66 hours and 35 minutes a week or 9 hours and 30 minutes a day.

TABLE 11.—*The average time spent during the week on food, house, and clothing with and without help by 102 rural Rhode Island homemakers grouped according to the number in the family*

| Number in family | AVERAGE DAILY TIME SPENT | | | NUMBER IN EACH GROUP | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| | Home-makers without help | Home-makers with help | Helpers | Home-makers without help | Home-makers with help | Helpers |
| 1 | 6 00 | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... |
| 2 | 6 20 | 5 40 | 1 45 | 14 | 7 | 7 |
| 3 | 6 15 | 6 25 | 1 00 | 13 | 17 | 17 |
| 4 | 5 50 | 7 10 | 2 35 | 10 | 12 | 12 |
| 5 | 8 35 | 7 15 | 2 15 | 3 | 9 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 00 | 7 05 | 2 35 | 3 | 8 | 8 |
| 7 | .... | 7 50 | 2 30 | .... | 4 | 4 |

Table 11 gives a comparison of the time spent by homemakers with or without help according to the number of people in the family. From this it appears that the proportion of women receiving help increases, as would be expected, as the family grows larger. The average amounts of time given by helpers, however, remain nearly stationary for the families of four or more. The problem of paid help among the women keeping these records was not great since only 15 of the 102 had such help.

SUMMARY

A summary of the work of the rural Rhode Island homemakers whose records have been studied shows an average working day of 7 hours and 45 minutes in household activities. It should be remembered when comparing it with outside work that this is a 7-day per week schedule. A comparison with the figures quoted by Richardson⁵ from a similar survey of the Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, shows that the Rhode Island woman works nearly 3 hours a week more than the average. There is a daily average of 45 minutes work for financial gain. A few activities reported as miscellaneous would add a few minutes to the day's record. According to the statements of the women

⁵The Annals of The American Academy of Political and Social Science 143:232, p. 22. 1929.

who kept these records the old saying "man works from sun to sun, but woman's work is never done" is no longer true.

No direct relation is shown between the amount of time spent in homemaking and the amount of help received by the homemaker. This is probably accounted for by the fact that many other conditions influence the time which the homemaker spends in work for the family.

The phase of work which is most time-consuming is that concerned with food. Preparation of meals takes only one-third more time than that used in the clearing away and cleaning connected with them. Since sewing is seasonal it did not appear at all in a number of the records kept during the season of active outside work. Ninety-two per cent of the women record at least some time spent in washing although 44 per cent send out part or all of their laundry. Some time during the week was spent in care of members of the family by 58 per cent of the homemakers. The time given to this appears to be taken from their recreation and not from their sleeping hours.

Personal care seems to take a rather small amount of time. Bathing, dressing, eating meals, and other items such as visits to the dentist or doctor take an average of only 2 hours and 15 minutes daily. In her recreation the rural Rhode Island woman spends a comparatively large portion of time in reading, much of which is news or current events. Visiting or entertaining neighbors and talking or playing games with the family constitute the chief social diversions. Much time is also spent at meetings, especially the Grange, but attendance at church or other religious meetings is reported by only 45 per cent. Quite a wide variety of interests is shown in the list of different organizations to which the women give help.

If she was fairly represented by those making these reports the usual Rhode Island homemaker does very little of the outdoor farm work except in the care of poultry. It appears also that this frequently does not represent the complete care of the flock. One-fifth carried on work which either earned money directly or helped another member of the family to do so.

Electricity is already within the reach of most rural families since more than three-fourths have electric lights. A large proportion have electric irons, but only 50 per cent have electric vacuum cleaners. Washing is done with a machine in one-half of the homes studied for this report. Since so large a proportion send out part or all of their laundry it seems that only a small amount is done by hand.

One-half of the number of homes studied have hot and cold running water and nearly one-fourth more have piped cold water. It is to be hoped

that this proportion may soon be increased. The same is true of those having central heat. Only a little more than one-half of the homes have a furnace.

The amount of education which the co-operators have had is well above the average. This is probably due to the fact that it seems to require more than the average initiative to organize sufficiently the facts about the daily activities to report them. The young homemaker also is usually either too occupied or not sufficiently interested to keep a record. All except five of the total number had kept house for 5 years or more. It was not possible to find any relation between the length of experience in homemaking and the amount of time used in the work.

Twenty-six women kept a second record at a different season. Except for the fact that more time was spent in sewing in the winter months and in laundering in the summer, there was little apparent difference in working time.

The number of paid helpers in the house is very small. Even in the case of laundry work the women evidently prefer to have the work done away from home if they do not do it themselves. The help from members of the household seems less than would be expected but this may be partly due to the failure of the homemaker to report all of it.

Similar studies are being carried on in several different sections of the country. A compilation and comparison of the results of all these will give a broad view of homemaking freed from local peculiarities.

APPENDIX

TABLE A.—*Average amount of time spent during the week in various homemaking activities by all workers in 102 rural Rhode Island households classified by the daily average number of persons in the household*

| Average number of persons in the household during week | FOOD | | | | | | | | | | | | HOUSE | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|------------|---------|----------|---|----------|---------|------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|--|
| | HOUSEHOLD | | | TOTAL | | | HOMEMAKING | | | Hrs. Min. | | | Daily and weekly | | | Cleaning | | | Care of fires | | | Other | | |
| | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | |
| Less than 2 | 10 | 10 | 50 | 30 | 7 | 15 | 21 | 00 | 3 | 00 | 10 | 35 | 1 | 30 | 7 | 30 | 1 | 05 | 2 | 55 | 0 | 25 | | |
| 2 to 3 | 26 | 25 | 53 | 40 | 7 | 40 | 23 | 30 | 3 | 20 | 12 | 55 | 1 | 50 | 7 | 35 | 1 | 05 | 3 | 00 | 0 | 25 | | |
| 3 to 4 | 25 | 24 | 58 | 20 | 8 | 20 | 27 | 55 | 4 | 00 | 14 | 00 | 2 | 00 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 30 | 3 | 40 | 0 | 30 | | |
| 4 to 5 | 19 | 19 | 69 | 10 | 9 | 55 | 28 | 40 | 4 | 05 | 14 | 05 | 2 | 00 | 10 | 35 | 1 | 30 | 4 | 00 | 0 | 35 | | |
| 5 to 6 | 12 | 12 | 71 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 30 | 55 | 4 | 25 | 15 | 35 | 2 | 15 | 11 | 00 | 1 | 35 | 4 | 20 | 0 | 35 | | |
| 6 and more | 10 | 10 | 87 | 40 | 12 | 30 | 43 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 22 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 40 | 2 | 05 | 6 | 20 | 0 | 55 | | |
| Average | | | 65 | 55 | 9 | 20 | 29 | 10 | 4 | 10 | 14 | 55 | 2 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 30 | 4 | 00 | 0 | 35 | | |

CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

| Average number of persons in the household during week | Total | CLOTHING AND TEXTILES | | | | | | CARE OF MEMBERS OF FAMILY | | |
|--|-------|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | | Laundering | | | Other | | | Sewing, mending, and fancy work | Per week | Per day |
| | | Total | Regular | Other | Washing | Ironing | Per week | | | |
| | | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per day |
| Less than 2 | 11 20 | 4 05 | 2 00 | 1 45 | 0 25 | 6 55 | 0 20 | 1 30 | 0 15 | |
| 2 to 3 | 12 25 | 4 20 | 2 10 | 1 40 | 0 30 | 7 55 | 0 10 | 2 05 | 0 20 | |
| 3 to 4 | 11 45 | 4 55 | 2 30 | 2 15 | 0 10 | 6 40 | 0 10 | 4 20 | 0 35 | |
| 4 to 5 | 14 35 | 6 10 | 3 40 | 2 00 | 0 25 | 8 15 | 0 10 | 8 30 | 1 15 | |
| 5 to 6 | 16 10 | 6 00 | 3 20 | 2 15 | 0 25 | 9 50 | 0 20 | 5 25 | 0 45 | |
| 6 and more | 15 15 | 7 50 | 5 00 | 2 35 | 0 15 | 7 20 | 0 05 | 9 55 | 1 25 | |
| Average | 13 35 | 5 35 | 3 05 | 2 05 | 0 20 | 7 50 | 0 10 | 5 15 | 0 45 | |

MANAGEMENT

| Average number of persons in the household during week | Total | MANAGEMENT | | | | | | GOING AND RETURNING | | |
|--|-------|------------|----------|----------|------------------------|----------|----------|---------------------|----------|----------|
| | | Purchasing | | | Planning and Recording | | | Other | Per week | Per week |
| | | Food | Other | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | | | |
| | | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week |
| Less than 2 | 3 40 | 0 40 | 2 20 | 0 30 | 0 15 | 0 05 | 0 05 | 0 55 | 0 55 | |
| 2 to 3 | 2 55 | 1 10 | 1 10 | 0 25 | 1 10 | 0 05 | 0 05 | 0 45 | 0 45 | |
| 3 to 4 | 2 00 | 0 25 | 1 00 | 0 30 | 0 05 | 0 05 | 0 05 | 0 45 | 0 45 | |
| 4 to 5 | 3 10 | 1 10 | 1 00 | 0 45 | 0 45 | 0 05 | 0 05 | 0 45 | 0 45 | |
| 5 to 6 | 2 45 | 0 45 | 0 55 | 0 55 | 0 10 | 0 10 | 0 10 | 0 00 | 0 00 | |
| 6 and more | 3 30 | 1 45 | 0 25 | 1 10 | 0 10 | 0 10 | 0 10 | 0 30 | 0 30 | |
| Average | 3 00 | 1 00 | 1 10 | 0 40 | 0 10 | 0 10 | 0 10 | 0 45 | 0 45 | |

OTHER HOME-MAKING

TABLE B.—*Average amount of homemaker's time spent during the week in various homemaking activities by 102 rural Rhode Island women classified by the amount of time so spent*

| Time spent during the week by the homemaker in homemaking | HOME-MAKERS | FOOD | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|------|
| | | HOME-MAKING | | | TOTAL | | | Preparation of meals | | | | |
| | | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | |
| Hours | No. | % | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. |
| Under 35 | 4 | 4 | 33 | 45 | 4 | 50 | 19 | 05 | 2 | 45 | 11 | 45 |
| 35 to 42 | 13 | 13 | 38 | 55 | 5 | 35 | 20 | 00 | 2 | 50 | 11 | 00 |
| 42 to 49 | 18 | 18 | 46 | 05 | 6 | 35 | 21 | 45 | 3 | 05 | 12 | 05 |
| 49 to 56 | 24 | 23 | 52 | 25 | 7 | 30 | 23 | 55 | 3 | 25 | 12 | 35 |
| 56 to 63 | 23 | 22 | 59 | 55 | 8 | 35 | 25 | 45 | 3 | 40 | 14 | 00 |
| 63 to 70 | 12 | 12 | 65 | 10 | 9 | 20 | 30 | 00 | 4 | 15 | 15 | 30 |
| 70 and more | 8 | 8 | 78 | 45 | 11 | 15 | 28 | 30 | 4 | 05 | 15 | 35 |
| Average | 9 | 35 | 7 | 40 | 24 | 10 | 3 | 25 | 13 | 15 | 1 | 55 |

| Time spent during the week by the homemaker in homemaking | HOUSE | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------------|---------|-------|----------|
| | Total | | | Cleaning | | | Care of fires | | | |
| | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Other | Per week |
| Hours | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. |
| Under 35 | 6 | 30 | 0 | 55 | 5 | 40 | 0 | 50 | 0 | 10 |
| 35 to 42 | 8 | 05 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 0 | 55 | 0 | 30 |
| 42 to 49 | 8 | 05 | 1 | 10 | 6 | 00 | 0 | 50 | 0 | 45 |
| 49 to 56 | 9 | 35 | 1 | 20 | 8 | 05 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 20 |
| 56 to 63 | 11 | 05 | 1 | 35 | 8 | 40 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 05 |
| 63 to 70 | 12 | 30 | 1 | 45 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 45 |
| 70 and more | 10 | 10 | 1 | 25 | 7 | 50 | 1 | 05 | 0 | 55 |
| Average | 9 | 25 | 1 | 20 | 7 | 20 | 1 | 05 | 0 | 40 |

| Time spent during the week by the homemaker in homemaking | Total Per week | Laundering | | | | | | Sewing, mending, and fancy work | | | Other Per week |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| | | Total Per week | Washing Per week | Regular Ironing Per week | Ironing Per week | Other Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | Per week | |
| Hours | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | |
| Under 35..... | 7 30 | 3 50 | 2 05 | 1 35 | 0 10 | 3 40 | 3 40 | 3 45 | 3 45 | 3 40 | |
| 35 to 42..... | 6 50 | 3 00 | 1 10 | 1 30 | 0 15 | 3 45 | 3 45 | 3 50 | 3 50 | 3 50 | |
| 42 to 49..... | 11 10 | 4 15 | 1 50 | 2 15 | 0 10 | 6 50 | 6 50 | 6 50 | 6 50 | 6 50 | |
| 49 to 56..... | 11 20 | 4 20 | 2 25 | 1 40 | 0 15 | 6 50 | 6 50 | 6 50 | 6 50 | 6 50 | |
| 56 to 63..... | 16 35 | 5 45 | 3 05 | 1 55 | 0 45 | 10 35 | 10 35 | 10 35 | 10 35 | 10 35 | |
| 53 to 70..... | 13 20 | 5 20 | 2 55 | 2 10 | 0 15 | 7 40 | 7 40 | 7 40 | 7 40 | 7 40 | |
| 70 and more..... | 16 55 | 7 30 | 5 15 | 1 40 | 0 35 | 9 20 | 9 20 | 9 20 | 9 20 | 9 20 | |
| Average | 11 55 | 4 50 | 2 40 | 1 50 | 0 20 | 6 55 | 6 55 | 6 55 | 6 55 | 6 55 | |

| Hours | CARE OF MEMBERS OF FAMILY | | | MANAGEMENT | | | OTHER HOME-MAKING | | | GOING AND RETURNING | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|------|
| | Per week | Per day | Total Per week | Purchasing Per week | Other Per week | Total Per week | Purchasing Per week | Other Per week | Total Per week | Purchasing Per week | Other Per week | |
| Under 35..... | .... | .... | 0 35 | 0 35 | .... | 0 35 | .... | 0 05 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| 35 to 42..... | 1 20 | 0 10 | 2 05 | 1 30 | 0 35 | 0 10 | 0 10 | 0 30 | 0 10 | 0 10 | 0 30 | 0 30 |
| 42 to 49..... | 1 05 | 0 10 | 3 10 | 2 25 | 0 50 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 0 45 | 0 45 |
| 49 to 56..... | 3 50 | 0 35 | 2 55 | 2 10 | 0 45 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 0 45 | 0 45 |
| 56 to 63..... | 3 25 | 0 30 | 2 15 | 1 30 | 0 50 | 0 05 | 0 05 | 0 40 | 0 05 | 0 05 | 0 40 | 0 40 |
| 63 to 70..... | 6 30 | 0 55 | 1 55 | 1 15 | 0 40 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 0 45 | 0 45 |
| 70 and more..... | 18 35 | 2 40 | 3 30 | 1 35 | 1 55 | 1 55 | 1 55 | 1 55 | 1 55 | 1 55 | 1 00 | 1 00 |
| Average | 5 00 | 0 45 | 2 40 | 1 35 | 0 50 | 0 05 | 0 05 | 0 40 | 0 05 | 0 05 | 0 40 | 0 40 |

TABLE C.—*Average amount of time spent during the week in various homemaking activities by all workers in 102 rural Rhode Island households classified by the total amount of time so spent*

| Time spent during week by all workers in homemaking | | HOME-MAKERS | | TOTAL HOMEMAKING | | FOOD | HOUSE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------------|----------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|---------------|----------|---------|------|------|------|------|------|----|---|----|---|----|
| | | | | | | Hours | No. | % | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | | | | | |
| Under 42 | | 8 | 8 | 36 | 40 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 10 | 2 | 55 | 10 | 10 | 1 | 25 | 6 | 20 | 0 | 55 | 3 | 40 | 0 | 30 |
| 42 to 49 | | 19 | 18 | 45 | 50 | 6 | 35 | 23 | 15 | 3 | 20 | 12 | 50 | 1 | 50 | 7 | 55 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 30 | 0 | 20 |
| 49 to 56 | | 18 | 18 | 52 | 50 | 7 | 35 | 24 | 30 | 3 | 30 | 12 | 55 | 1 | 50 | 8 | 30 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 25 |
| 56 to 63 | | 19 | 18 | 60 | 30 | 8 | 40 | 26 | 40 | 3 | 50 | 13 | 35 | 1 | 55 | 8 | 55 | 1 | 15 | 4 | 20 | 0 | 35 |
| 63 to 70 | | 9 | 9 | 65 | 30 | 9 | 20 | 26 | 55 | 3 | 50 | 14 | 05 | 2 | 00 | 9 | 30 | 1 | 20 | 3 | 25 | 0 | 30 |
| 70 to 77 | | 12 | 12 | 74 | 05 | 10 | 35 | 29 | 55 | 4 | 15 | 16 | 30 | 2 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 1 | 30 | 2 | 55 | 0 | 25 |
| 77 and more | | 17 | 17 | 97 | 45 | 14 | 00 | 42 | 00 | 6 | 00 | 19 | 20 | 2 | 45 | 16 | 15 | 2 | 20 | 6 | 25 | 0 | 55 |
| Average | | 61 | 55 | 8 | 50 | 27 | 40 | 3 | 55 | 14 | 10 | 2 | 00 | 9 | 40 | 1 | 25 | 3 | 45 | 0 | 30 | | |
| Time spent during week by all workers in homemaking | | | | | | Food | House | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Total | Per week | Per day | Per week | Cleaning | Per week | Per day | Per week | Per day | Care of fires | Per week | Per day | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | | | | | | |
| Hours | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | Hrs. | Min. | | | | | |
| Under 42 | 7 | 30 | 1 | 05 | 6 | 15 | 0 | 55 | 0 | 05 | 0 | 05 | 0 | 05 | 0 | 05 | 1 | 10 | | | | | |
| 42 to 49 | 10 | 20 | 1 | 30 | 7 | 05 | 1 | 00 | 1 | 30 | 0 | 15 | 1 | 45 | 0 | 05 | 1 | 35 | | | | | |
| 49 to 56 | 9 | 20 | 1 | 20 | 7 | 15 | 1 | 00 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 15 | 1 | 35 | 0 | 05 | 1 | 15 | | | | | |
| 56 to 63 | 12 | 05 | 1 | 45 | 8 | 55 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 55 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 15 | 1 | 15 | | | | | |
| 63 to 70 | 14 | 20 | 2 | 05 | 8 | 40 | 1 | 15 | 4 | 00 | 0 | 35 | 1 | 40 | 0 | 35 | 1 | 25 | | | | | |
| 70 to 77 | 15 | 35 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 30 | 3 | 50 | 0 | 35 | 1 | 25 | 0 | 35 | 2 | 25 | | | | | |
| 77 and more | 19 | 40 | 2 | 50 | 13 | 20 | 1 | 55 | 3 | 55 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 20 | 1 | 35 | | | | | |
| Average | 12 | 40 | 1 | 50 | 8 | 50 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 15 | 0 | 20 | 1 | 35 | 0 | 20 | 1 | 35 | | | | | |

CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

| Time spent during week by all workers in homemaking | Total Per week | Laundering | | | Sewing, mending, and fancy work | | | Other Per week |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | | Total Per week | | Other Per week | Ironing Per week | Other Per week | Ironing Per week | |
| | | Hours | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. |
| Under 42 | 7 30 | 3 25 | 1 30 | 1 40 | 0 15 | 4 00 | 0 10 | 0 10 |
| 42 to 49 | 8 10 | 3 25 | 1 25 | 1 55 | 0 05 | 4 35 | 0 10 | 0 15 |
| 49 to 56 | 12 10 | 4 15 | 2 30 | 1 40 | 0 10 | 7 45 | 0 15 | 0 15 |
| 56 to 63 | 14 35 | 5 15 | 2 35 | 1 50 | 0 50 | 9 15 | 0 05 | 0 05 |
| 63 to 70 | 15 15 | 7 10 | 3 55 | 3 10 | 0 05 | 7 50 | 0 20 | 0 20 |
| 70 to 77 | 16 45 | 5 35 | 3 10 | 1 55 | 0 30 | 10 45 | 0 20 | 0 20 |
| 77 and more | 17 50 | 5 20 | 2 55 | 2 05 | 0 20 | 7 35 | 0 15 | 0 15 |
| Average | 13 10 | 8 30 | 5 30 | 2 35 | 0 30 | 9 10 | 0 15 | 0 15 |

MANAGEMENT

| Time spent during CARE OF MEMBERS OF FAMILY | Total Per week | MANAGEMENT | | | OTHER HOME- MAKING | | | GOING AND RETURNING Per week |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| | | Total Per week | | Purchasing Per week | Other Per week | Per week | Per week | |
| | | Hours | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. | Hrs. Min. |
| Under 42 | 0 15 | 0 | 15 | 1 05 | 0 50 | 0 10 | 0 15 | 0 15 |
| 42 to 49 | 1 00 | 1 | 00 | 2 30 | 1 55 | 0 35 | 0 05 | 0 30 |
| 49 to 56 | 2 45 | 0 | 45 | 3 00 | 2 20 | 0 45 | 0 55 | 0 55 |
| 56 to 63 | 2 40 | 0 | 40 | 3 15 | 2 25 | 0 45 | 0 10 | 1 00 |
| 63 to 70 | 5 50 | 0 | 50 | 2 30 | 1 40 | 0 50 | 0 40 | 0 40 |
| 70 to 77 | 7 25 | 1 | 25 | 3 10 | 2 25 | 0 45 | 0 05 | 1 10 |
| 77 and more | 14 15 | 2 | 00 | 3 30 | 1 55 | 1 35 | 0 25 | 0 25 |
| Average | 4 55 | 0 | 40 | 2 45 | 1 55 | 0 40 | 0 05 | 0 40 |

